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## A STUDY OF

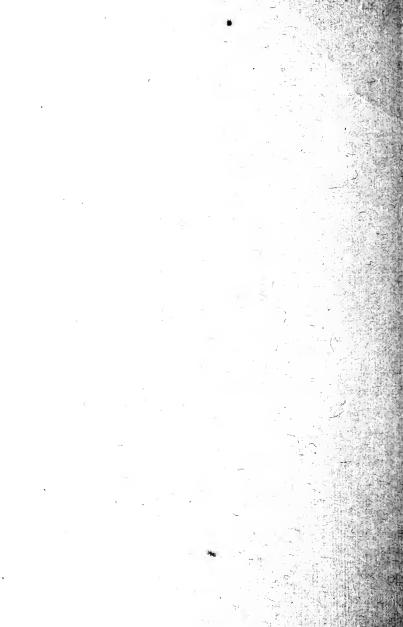
# HIGH SCHOOL PUPILS

WITH A VIEW OF DETERMINING THE EXTENT OF RECOLLECTION OF ONCE FAMILIAR FACTS

# A THESIS

Presented to the Faculty of the Graduate School of the University of Pennsylvania in partial fulfilment for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

BY
EMMANUEL WILSON COBER



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### A STUDY OF HIGH SCHOOL PUPILS

Until within the last twenty-five years, one of the dominant notes in grammar school education has been thorough and frequent review of grade work with a view to its permanent retention. This continual review was possible from the fact that the course of study was made up of few subjects limited in scope and content. With the constantly increasing demands made on the public school curriculum by subjects and activities wholly foreign to the formal education of a generation or so ago, the grammar school has become so enlarged in scope and content as to make much of the earlier drill work impossible in the time devoted to it. As much of this mechanical work was of a gestionable educative character, its limitation to fewer facts and activities would probably have meant educational betterment, had the change not been accompanied by the reaction against verbal memorizing, which has tended to prevent sufficient drill, or at any rate enough review work for the certain retention of once familiar facts too important to be forgotten. certain essential facts should constitute a part of every normal child's mental content is admitted by all educators. Just what these facts should be is a disputed question.

Much of our grammar school knowledge is for the purpose of furnishing a background for future educational development. Some of it is not supposed to be remembered but is for the purpose of discipline. Some of it is remembered for some time and then forgotten, but can easily be revived with little review.

With many people it is not uncommon to expect children to remember all they learn. This is illustrated by the action of the school board in a Pennsylvania town, where the principal was removed because in a teachers' examination certain of the high school pupils failed to remember facts which were a part of their grammar school course. There have been other investigations prompted by a similar

motive, among which may be cited an examination of the first year pupils of Washington, D. C. in 1900.

1,188 pupils were examined in common school branches which had been laid aside for nine months. The examination was at the instance of a senate committee and the questions were prepared by the chief examiner of the civil service commission and accepted by the director of the high schools. The pupils did not know before hand of an examination and so could not prepare with that in mind, as in the case of a civil service or teachers' examination. In arithmetic the average per cent. of correct answers to the eleven questions given was 58.8. This is the average of the 1,188 first year high school pupils of the six high schools in Washington, two of which are attended by colored students. The examination in spelling was upon words used in answering the history questions. The words which each pupil used were counted and the average number of words misspelled by each ranged from 3 to 6 per cent. In history the average per cent. of correct answers to the five questions was 53.10 (ranging through 44, 48, 52, 56, 59 for the six schools). Nineteen pupils made 70 per cent. or over.

The result of this and similar investigations has been the charge that the elementary school course is a failure, usually coupled with the suggestion that the failure is due to the influx of "fads" and educational experiments into the course of study. Now because facts once familiar to grammar school pupils are not recalled after an interval, does not prove that they were not perfectly familiar to the pupil at some previous time, neither is it an argument against the efficiency of work in the grammar school. In Psychology, the experiments of Ebbinghaus\* have shown conclusively that words and nonsense syllables cannot be so adequately memorized when first presented; that they can not be cer-

<sup>\*</sup>Uber das Gedachniss, (1885) p. 64.

tainly retained in the memory and readily recalled in the absence of occasional review.

The purpose of this piece of research work was to make an inductive study of high schools of recognized standing, primarily with a view to determining how long facts are remembered which were known with maximum certainty at the end of the grammar school course but which have not been reviewed since; and incidentally, so far as a limited investigation may indicate, the length of the interval which may elapse between reviews without such facts passing beyond the range of ready recall.

At the outset a very serious difficulty presents itself to the investigator. It cannot be assumed merely because facts are included in the work prescribed for the eighth school year that they were at one time thoroughly familiar to a given group of high school pupils. On the other hand it was impracticable with a large mass of pupils enrolled in various high schools, to limit the investigation to facts upon which the pupils were tested at the close of the grammar years together with the precise percentage of correct replies received in such a test. Fortunately this is not at all necessary. The test does not concern itself with the exact proportion of facts which are forgotten in a definite period of time, and so does not need to compare the percentage of correct replies made by a given individual with a similar percentage obtained in response to the same questions at the time when he left the grammar grades. But it is essential to know, first, that the facts asked for were among those most persistently drilled upon in the grammar grades and that they were included in the questions that determined promotion to the high school; and, second, that they were not reviewed either systematically or incidentally in connection with high school work, and were little likely to be called to mind outside of the school.

Selection was therefore made, in the first place, from facts which constituted part of the work prescribed as essential in a detailed course of study and included in tests that determined promotion to the high school, but were submitted to grammar school principals and rejected, in case they were not admitted to be among the details of the work upon which the pupils were most persistently drilled, and with which they could safely be assumed to be most familiar.

It is to be clearly understood that the questions finally selected were chosen solely from the fact that they met the conditions necessary to a satisfactory experiment, and not on account of their relative worth from the standpoint of the educational aim. In order that the disturbing influence of review or allusion may be so far as possible removed, the questions were largely limited to such portions of Physical Geography and United States History as have little bearing on high school work. There being no uniform course of study for the high schools investigated, a few of the questions in the list are reviewed in one or two of these high schools. Where this is the case the fact is noted and in working out the percentages, the results for such questions are omitted. For the same reason facts that were found to have been covered in regular class work between the first and second test are also noted and omitted in the percentages.

As some school systems are averse to any work given by one who is not officially connected with the system, especially if it will take much time, the questions were so framed as to require but a word or two in reply, and so to consume the least possible time in making the test.

The questions have been grouped under nine different heads; each designated by a Roman numeral. Those under each of the nine general groups are in most cases selected with some definite object in mind for such grouping. The effort to include in each group only such questions as are logically related, was subordinated to the selection of questions most certain to have been once mastered and less likely to have been incidentally recalled. In number I, all require numbers for answers and all with the exception of (1) are dates. In number II, all but (5) call for answers in general location in time. In number III and VIII, are questions calling for geographical facts which probably require more visualizing than any other questions in the list. Number IV consists of historical questions though (3) would occur in the work in geography. The answers to numbers V and VI respectively involve associations in geographical and historical sequence. Number IX is the preamble to the Constitution of the United States.

I (1) What is the inclination in degrees of the axis

In what year did the following events occur?

- (2) The introduction of slavery into Virginia.
- (3) The Missouri Compromise.
- (4) The landing of the Pilgrim Fathers.
- (5) The discovery of gold in California.
- II In whose administration did the following events occur?
  - (1) Invention of the cotton gin.
  - (2) Nullification Act.
  - (3) The purchase of Louisiana.
  - (4) In what war was the battle of Saratoga (Stillwater) fought?
  - (5) To what party did John Adams belong?
- III (1) What large island north of Australia?
  - (2) What sea north of South America?
  - (3) What mountain range in Northern Africa?
  - (4) What river between United States and Mexico?

- (5) What cape at the southern extremity of Africa?
- IV (1) By whom was the Mississippi river discovered?
  - (2) Who was the author of the Missouri Compromise?
  - (3) By what title is the modern ruler of Egypt known?
  - (4) How many years in the term of a U. S. Senator?
  - (5) Who was president of the Southern Confederacy?
  - V Beginning on the East—name in order the five Gulf States.
- VI Name in order the first five presidents of the United States.
- VII For what achievement are the following men noted?
  - (1) Cyrus W. Field.
  - (2) Robert Morris.
  - (3) Cortez.
  - (4) General Gates.
  - (5) Samuel F. B. Morse.
- VIII Name the capitals of the following countries:
  - (1) Switzerland.
  - (2) United States of Columbia.

In what countries are the following cities located?

- (3) Marseilles.
- (4) Para.
- (5) Odessa.
- IX Give the preamble to the Constitution of the United States.

Many questions which have to do with matters of local interest were omitted so as to make the test applicable in various cities. The answer to some questions would lead to confusion and therefore were omitted. For example,

"Name the largest of the Sandwich Islands." Here the answer "Hawaii" might be confused with the group of islands known by that name. Another example is the question, "Name the three branches (departments) of government of the United States." Here through their occurrence of a group of three, there might be a confusion of the Senate, House, and President with the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial departments.

Another type of question which has been omitted from the list is that in which the answers might easily be estimated. For example, "When did the second Continental Congress convene?" Here the date might be guessed from that of the Declaration of Indepedence. "Upon which of these cities does the sun shine first every morning, Pittsburgh or Philadelphia?" Here a guess has one chance in two of being correct. "In what zones is Africa located?" Knowledge of the fact that Africa is an equatorial region would suggest the torrid zone.

As mentioned before, such questions as involve much reasoning or a comparative judgment are not included in the list. For example, "Name and locate the most important battle fought outside the limits of the seceded states." "Go by water from Baltimore to Calcutta: a. State the general direction in which you would travel. b. Name the bodies of water on which you would sail." Here too much opportunity is given for variation in the details named.

The examples cited under these different types are actual questions which have been given to children in the eighth grade examination for promotion to the high school. They are not rejected because they are considered improper questions for eighth grade pupils but because they do not conform with the purpose of this investigation.

With the list of questions given on pages five and six, the test was given in seven different schools higher than the

eighth grammar grade, the number of pupils ranging from 187 to 396 in each school. If by classes we understand 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th years above the eighth grade, in one school five classes were represented, in four schools four classes, in one school two classes—those of the 1st and 2nd year, and in one school, pupils five years removed from the eighth grade were tested.

The numbers of successive tests also varied. In one school, but one test was given. In five schools the test was given a second time after an interval varying from seven to twenty days. In one school the test was given a second time after an interval of twenty-one days. Discarding those pupils who were absent from one test, though present in another in the same school, (199 in the whole investigation) left 2,485 papers to use as a basis to draw conclusions from. There were, omitting the 199 before mentioned, 1,362 different pupils represented in the test, distributed among classes above the eighth grade as follows:

First year588
Second year324
Third year184
Fourth year113
Fifth year153

Classified by sexes they were grouped as follows:

	Boys	Girls
First year	318	270
Second year	150	174
Third year	<i>7</i> 6	108
Fourth year	45	68
Fifth year	О	153

In subsequent tables for each school the tabulated results will show the number of correct answers for each question according to class and sex.

In order to eliminate the personal equation and insure

uniformity in work I conducted the tests in person. They were in all cases given in the forenoon. The first was on December 15th, 1908. This was the preliminary test and will be explained later. The tests which were given and repeated began with February 3rd, 1909 and ended April 23rd, 1909. The weather conditions during each test are carefully noted.

By previous arrangement with the principals, the program was so planned as to allow the test to be given in some schools to all pupils at once, in others, to two or more groups of pupils. In each case the teachers gave assistance in distributing and collecting papers, also in arranging the seating so as to allow no pupils to sit side by side. The principals explained the object of the test, making it clear that its results had no influence one way or the other in determining the standing of pupils in their school work. Therefore it was of no advantage to do dishonest work. but it was of the utmost importance, at least from an experimental and scientific point of view, to do the best work of which each was capable. The pupils were furnished paper on which were printed numbers and blanks and this greatly facilitated the test, and was a great economizer of time, both for the test and in correcting the papers.

The following is a copy of the blank used:

EXTENT OF RECOLLECTION OF ONCE FAMILIAR FACTS SCHOOL CLASS NAME DATE T. Τ. 2. 5. 3. 4. H. Ι. 2. 3. 4. 5. III. Ι. 2. 3. 4. 5. IV. Ι. 2. 3. 4. 5. V. Ι. 3. 2. 4. 5. VI. Ι. 2. 3. 4. 5. VII. Ι. 2. 3. 4. 5. VIII. 5. Ι. 2. 3. 4. IX. X.

Before beginning the test, each pupil was asked to write in the places provided at the top of the blank, the name of the school, his class, his name, and the date. In order to classify the papers by sex the, first name was written in full. It was made clear to all that the questions about to be read would correspond in their numbering to the numbers used on the blanks before them. The answers were to be written in the shortest form possible. I then began. "Roman I. 1. What is the inclination in degrees of the axis of the earth?" repeating the question. No interruption by the pupils in asking questions, or by myself in explaining questions was allowed to interfere with this part of the work. The time allowed for the actual writing was for questions I and VII. less than twenty seconds for each of the five parts of each question, for II, III, IV, VIII less than seventeen seconds. For questions V. and VI. seventy-five seconds was allowed for each, while five to eight minutes was allowed for question IX. When the test was given the second time, the pupils were familiar with the method of procedure and so less time was allowed for the second test. Where the test was repeated the third time, the questions were more familiar and therefore the time was not as long as for the second test.

With the completion of question IX the papers were collected and I read the questions again giving the correct answer to each. Pupils were now allowed to ask questions and I made explanations of the questions and of the answers, if the pupils asked for it. This constituted the review. Nothing was said of repeating the test at some future time and the pupils and teachers usually, with the exception of the principal, did not expect a repetition. The whole exercise was conducted in less than forty minutes, sometimes during a study period, but mostly during a regular class period, which was set aside for this purpose. But in no case was the test given in any school to one group before and to another group after an intermission, which would allow pupils to meet and discuss the test. Principals and teachers if they knew of the proposed repetition, were asked not to discuss this with the pupils.

The objection was raised by one principal, that such a test of disconnected questions, in which little more than sufficient time was given than was required to write the answer and so very little time to think about each question would not be a fair test, especially for the pupil of phlegmatic temperament. In this connection it must be remembered that the questions were selected because a memory test was the object and not a test involving reasoning and logical analysis. It was also very evident in conducting this study in the various schools that there was an added stimulus for each pupil to do his best. An unusual exercise given by a stranger and in no way connected with the school system, and also the fact that the result of each pupil would in a measure reflect the standing of the school if compared with other schools, would be a strong incentive to get the best the pupil could give.

The papers were all corrected and tabulated by myself and so the personal equation was here eliminated as well as in conducting the test. The answer was either right or wrong, but as it was sometimes difficult to say whether it was right or wrong, by one person correcting the papers, uniformity at least was preserved. Before beginning the correction of papers of any one school, the names of those in the first test were compared with those of the second and the third test (where this was given) and all pupils absent for either one of the tests were eliminated. The same pupils therefore figure in the various tests of the same school.

In marking question IX, which is one involving a great deal of association, the occasional omission of a word not vital to the sense or the misuse of such a word, does not make the answer wrong. Questions V and VI are each divided into five parts and so easily tabluated if partially right. (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) are respectively used to refer to those given correctly. For example, an answer giving

four of the possible five Gulf States correctly and in order is scored under (d). An answer giving three of the presidents correctly and in order is scored under (c). It is evident that those who name four states correctly and in order also name three, but in scoring, complications would arise which have led me to follow the method described.

A preliminary test was given to a high school of 396 pupils-193 boys and 203 girls. This test helped to formulate the final plan, a description of which has been given. The method of conducting this preliminary test differed from the final plan in this: If the pupils could not answer the question in the allotted time they were asked to draw a line instead. After all the questions were given they were repeated from the begining, and the pupils given a second opportunity to write the answer over the line previously drawn. If now they did not know the answer they were asked to put a check mark, provided the fact was never known to them. This complicated system was found to be confusing. The drawing of lines and checking of questions by the pupils was not accurate, for in correcting the papers it was found that many of the questions unanswered were checked. Often a question which was answered correctly was partly erased and checked, showing that the checking was used as a means of concealing the pupil's certainty of the correct answer.

SCHOOL No. 1

Class	1		Fres	sh		Sop	h.	]	unio	or	5	eni	or	7	otals		
No. of P	upils		240	)		93			53			10			396		
		First Attempt	No. added secind attempt	Fact never known by	First	No. added	Never known	First	No. added	Never known	First	No. added	Never known	First attempt	No. added secind attempt	Fact never known	No. Answered first and second attempt
II	1 2 3 4 5 1 2 3 4 5	38 24 8 65 38 32 13 141 130	21214503117	55 18 26 16 17 9 32 9	39 4 1 25 4 0 2 46 43	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 5 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 3 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 6 \\ 1 & 2 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$	$   \begin{array}{c}     17 \\     0 \\     0 \\     18 \\     3 \\     1 \\     0 \\     25 \\     20   \end{array} $	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 2 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$	8 4 7 1 3 0 8 1 1	$   \begin{array}{c}     9 \\     0 \\     2 \\     4 \\     0 \\     0 \\     5 \\     7   \end{array} $	$ \begin{array}{cccc} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{array} $	$ \begin{array}{cccc} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 4 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{array} $	103 28 11 112 45 33 15 217 200	13 6 3 4 2 9	64 22 35 18 21 10 50 12 7	107 30 15 125 45 36 19 219 209
III	1 2 3 4 5	2 83 119 183 103	1 3 2 0 4	38 10 73 2 15	0 42 4 68 32	$0 \\ 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 3$	17 2 10 1 3	0 17 3 35 25	$\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$	5 21 5 21 21 0	$0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ 7 \\ 3$	0 0 0 0	$\begin{array}{c} 1\\1\\1\\0\\0\end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 2\\143\\128\\293\\163\end{array}$	1 5 3 1 8	61 15 89 5 20	3 148 131 294 171
IV V	1 2 3 4 5 (e)	172 91 3 29 96 73	3 5 1 0 7 3	6 13 72 1 19 8	53 17 1 10 32 34	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$	27 26 0 4 0	37 2 6 14 28 19	0 0 0 0 1 0	0 6 7 1 2 0	891015415	0 0 0 0 0	005020	270 112 10 58 160 131	4 6 1 0 9 4	8 26 10 2 27 8	274 118 11 58 169 135
VI VII	(e) 1 2 3 4 5	46 31 82 29 35 164	0 1 4 3 1 3	11 74 27 57 30 22	10 11 27 7 10 54	$\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 4 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$	0 14 3 9 4	11 6 13 9 10 25	0 0 0 1 2 2	0 11 3 7 3 1	$\frac{1}{1}$ $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{5}$ $\frac{3}{7}$	0 0 1 0 0 0	1 3 0 0 0 0	68 49 126 50 58 240	0 1 9 4 3 6	12 102 33 73 37 24	68 50 135 54 61 246
VIII	1 2 3 4 5	44 17 31 19 63	1 1 3 1 2	35 39 46 56 36	13 1 11 8 19	0 1 2 2 2 2	9 10 11 13 11	15 4 17 1 19	$\begin{bmatrix} 2\\0\\1\\0\\0 \end{bmatrix}$	22675	0050011	0 0 0 0 0	1 0 1 3 3	72 $22$ $64$ $28$ $103$	3 2 6 3 4	47 51 64 79 55	75 24 70 31 107
IX		20	0	38	4	0	11	2	0	3	7	0	0	33	0	52	33

#### SCHOOL No. 1.

The preceding table shows the result of the preliminary

test. At the top are indicated the class and number of pupils in each class, to the right, the totals. The figures "38" following I. I indicates the number of pupils in the freshman class who answered questionI. I correctly on the first attempt. 2 wrote the answer on the second trial and 55 checked the question. 103 in the school of 396 answered question I. I correctly on the first attempt, 4 on the second, and 64 said they never knew the fact. 107 after two trials succeeded in answering the first question. In question V and VI only those who have given the facts correctly and in order (the 5 states in V and the 5 presidents in VI) are scored.

Question II. 5 is left blank because this question, "To what party did Henry Clay belong" was later discovered to be an unfair question, for during his political career, Clay was at different times affiliated with three different political parties.

Question VIII. 3 for this preliminary test was Barcelona. This was changed to Marseilles for the final tests because of the prominence given through the daily papers to an earthquake in Spain in the immediate vicinity of Barcelona.

This school is composed of boys and girls, but they are not separated in the tabulations. The test was given Dec. 15th, 1908, and not repeated. It should be noted that question I. I is studied in the regular course in astronomy for the senior year.

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	13 Boys		   104H0004URU08RR008U0HB40
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In this school the first test was given February 3, 1909, and the second February 23, 1909. Interval—20 days. Weather conditions: First test—fair; Second test—rain.

Class D for the most part does work corresponding to the first high school year although in this particular school class E (which was not tested) is nominally the first year in the high school. For this investigation, Class D. is then considered as the first year, C as the second, B as the third and A as the fourth. At the top are indicated the class, number in each class, and sex. It should be noted that the boys and girls do practically the same work but not in the same classes. There are separate departments for the boys and girls. The first test is indicated by the figure "I" and the second test by "2" in the space "No. of Test." In the schools preparing for this school question IX is not taught.

No. of Pupils		145
No. of Tests	1st.	2nd.
I 1	71	143
2	34	124
3	14	109
4	102	130
5	61	128
II 1	103	137
2	88	126
3	116	134
4	104	144
5	64	139
III 1	19	124
2	117	145
3	90	144
$4\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots$	141	145
$5.\ldots\ldots$	144	145
IV 1	116	145
2	73	138
3	81	132
4	126	138
$5\ldots\ldots$	130	136
V (a)	25	6
(b)	8	
(c)	1	
(d)		
(e)	102	138
VI (a)	31	9
(b)	5	1
(c)	33	4
(d)	8	
(e)	44	128
VII ` 1	50	<b>14</b> 0
2	84	135
3	87	136
4	34	129
5	117	142
VIII 1	54	137
2	74	136
3	145	145
4	79	141
$5.\ldots$	136	142
IX	68	82

## SCHOOL No. 3

In this school the first test was given February 24th, 1909 and the second, March 3rd, 1909. Interval—7 days.

Weather conditions: first test—clear; second test—rain.

This is a girls school and the test included only one class which is the fifth year removed from the grammar school. As all of these girls are preparing themselves for teachers, they cover most if not all the questions of the test in some form.

Questions III. 2 and 3 were touched upon in class work before the first test. III. 4 was covered by about one half of the class before the first test. IV. I was also taken up in the class work. Special emphasis is given to VII. 2 and 3 in course and it was expected that the pupils would be perfect in these for the second test. The results are for the most part better here than in the other schools tested. The improvement as indicated by the second test would be phenomenal for the average school. There was no doubt an added incentive to give more than a passing interest to these questions from the fact that all these girls expect to be teachers. Within a year or two they will all be required to pass examinations involving questions of just such a character as this test furnishes. The average high school pupil would be little concerned in trying to recall the fact, whereas those who know that they will be examined for teachers' certificates involving subjects used in this investigation, would naturally make a special effort to retain the fact. These reasons, I am confident, explain why so large a number of pupils answered every question correctly on the second test. It must also be borne in mind that the time interval here was only seven days.

SCHOOL No. 4

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114
110
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115
134
137
3   123
5 100
7 8
)   1
)   113
$\begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 8 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 99 \end{bmatrix}$
$ \begin{array}{c cccc} 2 & 122 \\ 2 & 126 \end{array} $
1   105
5 87
111 103
2   109 3   46

113 In test for VIII and IX.

<sup>\*</sup> For class C in VIII and IX.

<sup>45</sup> Pupils instead of 70.

First Test—February 19th, 1909. Second Test—March 5th, 1909. Interval—14 days.

Weather condition:

First test.............Clear and Cold Second test...........Cloudy

This is a boys' school and but two years are represented in the test—the first and second years of high school work. Classes C and F are first year pupils. Classes B and E. are second year pupils. They are divided as indicated in the table, because they entered the high school as follows:

Class F—February, 1909. Class C—September, 1908. Class E—February, 1908 Class B—September, 1907.

Because of an unforeseen circumstance while the First test was given to one section of Class C, the period was so shortened that the questions were completed only to question VII. When the test was given the second time, work was stopped with the completion of number VII so as to conform with test one of the class. It must therefore be remembered that for question VIII and IX of Class C, there were 45 pupils instead of 70. The total number of pupils in the test for questions VIII and IX is 113, instead of 138.

Question VIII. 3 was taken up by Class B in class work about the time of the test. It should be noted that Class F was promoted to the high school but two weeks before the first test was given and so was quite familiar with the question as shown in the results.



TOTALS

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7 16 1 16	9 16 14 16 15	$12 \\ 16 \\ 14 \\ 16 \\ 16 \\ 16$	6 8 8 8	88888	88888	0 <u>29</u> 14 41 41	41 48 43 49 49	45 49 48 49 50	15 60 19 88 93	58 98 89 103 104	84 98 97 105 104	15 89 33 129 134	99 146 130 152 153	129 147 145 154 154
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4 9 4 8 6	13 14 15 12 16	16 15 15 15 16	$\begin{array}{c} 6 \\ 2 \\ 6 \\ 1 \\ 6 \end{array}$	88868	88888	13 21 19 8 37	45 19 39 37 43	50 47 44 44 49	19 31 40 15 76	73 69 78 48 92	85 76 91 69 95	32 52 59 23 113	118 88 117 85 135	125 123 135 113 134
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First test given March 3rd, 1909. Third test given March 30th, 1909. Second test given March 9th, 1909.

In this school three tests were given with seven days interval between the first and second test, and 21 days interval between the second and third tests.

#### Weather conditions:

First test	Rain
Second test	Rain
Third test	lear

Class 9 is the first year class, 10 the second, 11 the third and 12 the fourth year in the high school. Class 13 is the fifth year above the eighth grade, composed of girls who expect to become teachers and give some time to the review of the common branches.

Class 12 cover I. 2, 3, 4, 5, also questions II, IV, V and VI in United States History, although the boys' column would not indicate it.



	3611002																				TOTALS															
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First test March 23rd, 1909. Second test April 6th, 1909. Interval, 14 days.

#### Weather conditions:

First test	 Clear.
Second test	 Clear

In this table the year is indicated at the top and underneath are the sections which come into use in this school because of a three years course which was later changed to four years. The sections in each case are as follows:

First year-Junior	$\mathrm{B}^{2}$	Boys,	second	half of	year
"	$\mathrm{B}^{5}$	Girls,	second	"	"
4.6	C4	Boys,	first	"	"
**	$C^6$	Girls,	first	"	"
Second year-Middle	В4	Girls,	second	"	"
Junior	$A^{\mathbf{I}}$	Boys,	first	"	"
Junior	$A^6$	Girls,	first	"	"
Third year—Senior	$\mathbb{C}^3$	Girls,	second	"	"
Middle	$A^{I}$	Boys,	first	"	"
Middle	$A^2$	Girls,	first	"	"
Fourth year—Senior	$\mathbf{B}_{\mathbf{I}}$	Boys,	first	"	"

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Ü	Number of Pupils	Sex	Number of													
	Nu	]	Z													

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First test—April 6th, 1909. Second test—April 23rd, 1909. Interval, 17 days.

Weather conditions:

As the preliminary test made in School No. 1 in a measure changed the mode of procedure, the questions and the method of tabulating results in the succeeding tests, it is omitted in the final summaries. On account of the review of the common school branches given in the fifth high school year, and the additional interest present with pupils who expect to teach such facts as are here involved in our list of questions, the results obtained with fifth year pupils have also been disregarded. This eliminates School No. 3, and a few pupils from School No. 5, all of whom are girls.



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#### SUMMARY No. 1

In this table is given the actual number of correct answers for each question, also the totals of all questions tabulated by year, number of test, interval between tests, and sex. It will be noticed that questions V, VI and IX are omitted in this summary. These questions differ from the others, in that they are such as have to do with a series of associations, while those tabulated are mere questions of fact, and therefore for the most part, involve nothing but memory.

Column one and two of each year shows the number of correct answers for each question, for the first test. After the first test the time interval separates the results into various groups, one of which had an interval of from 17 to 20 days, one 14 days and one 7 days. The group which had the 7 day interval was given a third test after an interval of 21 days.



# SUMMARY No. 1

CLASS				F	IRST	YEAI	R				Ι			s	ECON	D YE	AR								Т	HIRD	VEA	R					-	F	OUR	тн у	EAR			
Number of Tests	1		2			2		2		3		1		2		2		2		3		1	[	2			2	5		8		1		2		2	2		3	
Intervals Number of Days			17 and	20	1	4		7	Fi. Sec	rst, 7 ond, 21			17 8	nd 20		14		7		Firs Secon	t. 7 d 21			17 and	d 20	1	4		7	Fire				17 and	20	14	7		First, Second	7 21
Number of Pupils	204 14	4	44	58	134	42	26	44	26	44	10	7 124	35	57	58	37	1	4 :	30	14	80	47	84	32	43	10	32	5	9	5	9	38	65	28 4	9	5	5	16	5	16
Sex	В. С	3.	В.	G.	В.	G.	В.	. G.	В	. G.	В.	G.	В.	G.	В.	G.	1	В.	G.	В.	G.	в.	G.	В.	G.	В.	G.	В.	G.	В.	G.	В.	G.	В. (	G.	В.	В.	G.	В. С	·.
VIII 1 2 3 4 5 5 1 VIII 1 2 3 4 5 5 1 1 VIII 1 2 3 1 4 5 5 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	61	114 114 115 113 113 113 114 115 117 117 117 117 117 117 117	32 27 33 31 9 1 9 1 9 1 9 1 9 1 9 1 9 1 9 1 9	21 449 334 551 445 445 441 441 441 449 9 9 9 9 9 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	82 98 — —	39 28 22 28 39 31 34 4 5 30 35 32 30 36 33 41 7 38 29 13 13 13 13 13 27 19 6 38 11 33 33 33 33 33 33 33	244 166 122 17 17 17 21 1 15 20 24 25 22 25 27 28 22 28 22 21 18 18 18 18 18 16 25 23 23 23 23 633	27 28 31 30 41 21 36 42 43 43 41 31 32 20 25 21 16 35 31 11 16 42 21 40 41 41 41 41 41 41 41 41 41 41 41 41 41	222 144 206 199 233 266 25 25 266 25 266 26 26 26 26 26 26 26 26 26 26 26 26	33 27 30 34 43 43 43 43 43 43 43 44 42 42 42 42 44 43 44 45 46 47 47 48 48 48 48 48 48 48 48 48 48 48 48 48	488 144 155 211 244 588 62 25 15 82 42 888 81 18 40 82 27 21 80 39 43 32 55 90 43 76	9 2 2 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5	288 24 24 25 26 26 27 28 28 24 27 28 28 24 27 28 28 27 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28	177 144 36 28 36 13 33 51 29 26 46 28 26 47 45 29 12 41 35 34 41 36 38 31 16 40 40 40 45 45 45	388 344 343 346 347 347 347 347 347 347 347 347 347 347	222 22 22 22 22 22 22 22 22 22 22 22 22	9918844 33 33 33 33 33 33 33 33 33 33 33 33 3	10 15 — —	26 15 12 19 12 24 8 18 28 28 23 25 25 25 22 27 18 25 22 27 11 24 23 23 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25	13 6 6 7 12 12 7 7 11 14 13 13 13 14 14 14 13 11 13 13 13 13 14 14 13 13 13 13 13 13 13 13 13 13 13 13 14 14 15 16 16 17 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18	29 23 18 29 20 29 20 29 28 18 25 27 28 28 19 19 21 21 22 28 28 28 29 24 18 29 21 29 29 28 28 29 29 29 29 29 29 29 29 29 29 29 29 29	4 3 2 25 18 1 3 14 26 9 1 25 36 12 25 36 4 14 17 7 40 14 0 17 23	16 4 4 9 9 9 9 28 33 3 3 60 60 61 12 32 24 10 74 8 8	25 7 7 1 19 19 19 19 16 6 8 8 25 12 21 10 29 25 17 17 18 30 15 6 6 29 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20	36 12 29 25 29 16 6 33 3 25 25 39 32 25 31 18 18 18 18 28 25 5 9 14 11 23 32 27 775	100 7 3 3 9 9 8 8 8 4 4 6 6 10 0 6 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	27 12 29 13 3 24 20 27 15 16 20 17 29 27 15 13 12 12 18 25 25 27 27 29 27 27 29 27 27 29 27 27 29 27 27 27 27 27 27 27 27 27 27 27 27 27	5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5	99 99 99 99 99 96 67 77 77 33 99 90 90 91	5 4 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5	9 7 7 5 8 8 8 8 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9	3   4   1   16   16   16   18   24   16   18   24   17   25   27   10   15   29   10   15   29   11   14   18   18   14   18   445   445   445   16   16   16   16   16   16   16   1	16 12 14 12 14 15 15 16 16 17 17 16 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17	15 24 16 25 28 26 15 13 26 23 22 20 21 19 26 19 26 21 21 29 20 20 21 21 26 21 27 28 29 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20	40 18 14 39 30 37 23 39 48 40 47 45 46 40 47 45 22 24 46 36 37 35 29 36 37 37 37 22 48 40 40 47 47 45 46 40 47 47 47 47 48 48 49 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40	5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5	5 4 5 4 5 5 4 5 5 4 5 5 6 7 7 7 8 7 8 7 8 7 8 7 8 7 8 7 8 7 8 7	16 14 16 14 15 16 15 12 16 13 9 16 14 16 10 14 16 10 14 16 10 11 11 10 11 10 11 10 11 11 11 11 11	4555 55455 45555 45355 55555 53555	16 16 16 16 15 16 16 16 16 16 11 11 12 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16
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#### SUMMARY No. 2

In this table the results for each question are summarized in groups for the number of test, interval between tests and sex. There is no division of pupils according to years in this summary. The first column gives the number of correct answers of that group for each question. The second column is the per cent.

The answers to the questions used as the basis of this study were, so far as it is possible to determine, at one time a part of the mental content of every pupil tested All of the principals where the test was given, considered the questions fair, except the principal of School No. 2, who said that question IX was not a part of the work of the grammar schools which prepared for his institution. The first test was given from 9 to 11 months after the pupils had left the grammar school, excepting in the case of 27 boys who were in the first test in School No. 4 two weeks after they left the eighth grade. Results show that 47.5 per cent of the questions were answered by the boys and 21.6 per cent. by the girls. In the 9 to 11 months which elapsed between the date on which they left the grammar school and that on which the first tests were taken, over 50 per cent. of the facts were forgotten by the majority of pupils. Only a test made at the very beginning of the fall term would show to what extent the facts were remembered after the necessary interval of vacation.

It would be naturally inferred, that in the second year of the high school the percentage would be lower than in the first and lower in the third than in the second. The results of our investigation in case of the boys show this to be true. 47.5, 42.3 and 34.3 are the percentages for the first, second and third years respectively. In the case of the girls there is a slight increase with the three years; 21.6 for the first, 23.4 for the second and 25.5 for the third. While this investiga-

tion shows an average of 39 per cent. for the boys and 37.2 for the girls in the fourth year, it does not follow that review work should be posponed until this year. This higher percentage in the fourth year may be accounted for by "the survival of the fittest" of pupils who in various ways incidentally review their early school work, and are far superior to the lower classes from an apperceptive viewpoint.

Out of 33 questions only 5 were correctly answered by 75 per cent. or more of all the pupils tested in the four classes—4 in case of the boys and 1 in case of the girls. There seems then ample justification for review of once familiar facts if such facts are to be of any practical value after leaving the grammar grades.

The results of the Washington test\* show that 9 months after leaving the grades, over 40 per cent. of the grammar school content cannot be recalled readily. It is just as much a part of the high school work to review early learned facts as to learn new ones. In some high schools it is customary to review common school branches in the fourth year. If this is necessary for pupils who remain in the high school until graduation, it is especially important for the large number who do not reach the second and third year.

The results indicate that many once familiar facts will be forgotten, if review is postponed beyond the first months of the high school course. Just what facts are so important that they should always be ready for recall is not in the province of this discussion, but whatever they may be, they should be reviewed for practical efficiency in society and to develop mental content for future life work.

The results throw little light upon the length of interval desirable between reviews.

<sup>\*</sup>Senate Report 711, pt. 2, 56th cong. 1st Session. School Examination.

				nt. of co	orrect
				Bovs	Girls
			First year	72.6	53.6
17-	-20	day interval	Second year	68.7	$57 \cdot 3$
			First year Second year Third year Fourth year	72.3	69. I
				Boys	Girls
		• . •	First year	77	61.3
14	day	interval	Second year	77 · I	48
			First year Second year Third year Fourth year	72.3	53·/ 69.1

In the tests with both these intervals, the time elapsing from the first to the second test is probably too long.

The 7 day interval shows more satisfactory results than the longer intervals, possibly indicating the importance of a second review within one week from the first review.

The test given after the seven day interval was repeated in the same school for the third time, after an interval of 21 days from the time of the second test, with the following results:

	Per cent	. of correct
	an	swers
	Boys	Girls
First year	92.4	83.4
Second year	84.5	78.4
Third year	92	91.8
Fourth year	94.6	91.6

This marked improvement seems to point to the conclusion that review after a short interval of about one week followed by review after continually increasing intervals, is the best means of reviving and retaining once familiar facts. Such incidental data, however, is inadequate, for even a tentative judgment on this point.

While no conclusions are drawn from results obtained in this study as to difference of sex, the kinds of questions which are more easily recalled and the type of question which is easily remembered by formal repetition after an interval, some are here indicated. Geographical facts are recalled with about the same readiness as historical in case of the boys, while in case of the girls Geographical facts are more familiar. Dates are difficult for both sexes Questions involving location in time are more difficult than those requiring visualizing. The preamble of the Constitution is correctly given by few pupils. That is, a fact involving the associations of many words in definite relationships, seems to be less persistently remembered than one expressed by a single word. The little improvement after repetition noted for this question can be accounted for by the fact that the single repetition used in the investigation is inadequate to the revival and the retention of so lengthy and complex a passage.

The results of the 27 boys in School No. 4, who because of the mid-year promotions were in the test two weeks after leaving the grades are worth noting. 26 Boys gave the preamble although two weeks later only 18 boys wrote it. The result for the 33 questions was 73 per cent. for the first test and 89.4 for the second.

It is remarkable how much better the results are for the boys than the girls in the various schools tested. In schools where both sexes attend, the results show a higher percentage of correct answers for the boys. Although the questions in this test are quite different from those cited by G. Stanley Hall\* in the results as worked out by Netschajeff is not greatly in favor of the boys. That test was concerned with memory reproduction of objects, sounds, numbers, visualized words, sound concepts, touch, feeling and abstract ideas after an interval of less than a minute.

The one definte and certain conclusion reached, is the inability of high school pupils, in the absence of occasional review, to retain and to readily recall, even after but a few months interval, the facts most thoroughly memorized in the grammar school course. If the grammar school course contains any facts so important that they should be recalled with maximum certainty in the high school, or after the high school course has been completed, provision must be made for systematic review. While the length of the successive intervals for which such details may remain unreviewed and still be certainly retained is in itself a subject for serious investigation, it is probable that one or two reviews after short intervals at the beginning of the school year may be followed by occasional reviews at continually increasing intervals. If this is true of grammar school work useful at the close of the high school course, it may be equally true of high school work directly useful in college or in after life. May not, for example, the high percentage of failure in freshman mathematics be due to the absence of adequate review of facts, perhaps thoroughly mastered in the earlier high school years that must be certainly remembered in exact relationship, if advanced work in mathematics is to be successfully performed.

<sup>\*</sup>Adolescence. Vol. 2, p. 490.

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